

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 ACDA-07 /086 W
-----171937Z 037571 /50

R 171015Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4018
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 3080

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ET, PGOV, PINS
SUBJECT: FIRST PMAC CONGRESS MEETING

REF: A) ADDIS ABABA 0955 (NOTAL), B) ADDIS ABABA 76 12642
(NOTAL)

1. MAY 17 ETHIOPIAN HERALD REPORTED FIRST MEETING OF
PROVISIONAL MILITARY ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL (PMAC OR
DIRGUE) CONGRESS SINCE FEBRUARY 11 REVISION OF PRO-
CLAMATION DEFINING POWERS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF PMAC
AND COUNCIL OF MINISTERS. CONGRESS HEARD PROGRESS REPORT
FROM PMAC SEC GEN CAPT. FIKRE-SELESSIE WOGDERESS ON MAJOR
ACHIEVEMENTS PAST THREE MONTHS AND THOSE ENVISAGED
FOR FUTURE. (PRESS DID NOT REPORT DETAILS.) MENGISTU
OUTLINED STATE OF NATION IN NOW FAMILIAR TERMS, NOTING
ENCIRCLEMENT BEING MADE AGAINST REVOLUTION BY INTERNAL
AND EXTERNAL REACTIONARIES WITH SOLID PATRONAGE OF
IMPERIALISM AND INTERFERENCE AND INTERVENTION
BEING PERPETRATED BY REACTIONARY ARAB RULERS. HE
ALSO INFORMED CONGRESS ETHIOPIAN REVOLUTION HAS
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NUMEROUS FRIENDS AND FULL SUPPORT OF PROGRESSIVE
FORCES OF WORLD.

2. CONGRESS DISCUSSED CURRENT MILITIA CAMPAIGN DURING FIRST
MEETING AND ISSUED DIRECTIVES (UNSPECIFIED) FOR SAME.
CONGRESS ALSO ISSUED GUIDELINES FOR FURTHER
POLITICIZATION, ORGANIZATION AND ARMING OF BROAD MASSES

IN LINE WITH NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC REVOLUTION TO WITHSTAND
"ENEMIES". CONGRESS ALSO REVIEWED ASSISTANCE PMAC
SHOULD GIVE TO PROGRESSIVE FORCES AND ISSUED DIRECTIVES
(UNSPECIFIED) TO 16-MEMBER PMAC STANDING COMMITTEE
ON ACTIONS IT SHOULD TAKE. ARTICLE CONCLUDED WITH
REPETITION OF PMAC CONGRESS'S POWERS AND RESPONSIBILITIES
(REFTELS).

3. COMMENT: PMAC CONGRESS MEETING COMES ON HEELS
OF MENGISTU VISIT TO SOVIET UNION AND AMID PREPARATIONS
FOR MILITIA CAMPAIGN. SKETCHY MEDIA REPORT HINTED
MENGISTU BRIEFED FULL DIRGUE ON SOME DETAILS OF
MOSCOW TRIP, I.E., FULL SUPPORT OF PROGRESSIVE FORCES,
AND ATTEMPTED TO FORTIFY MORALE OF LEADERSHIP DURING
DIFFICULT PERIOD IN WHICH MENGISTU PERCEIVES
ETHIOPIA BESIEGED ON ALL SIDES. NATURALLY MILITIA
CAMPAIGN MAJOR DISCUSSION ITEM AND MEETING PROBABLY
ATTEMPT TO SOLIDIFY PMAC SUPPORT FOR CURRENT EFFORTS.
PUBLICITY GIVEN TO MEETING UNUSUAL, AS PAST MAJOR
PMAC MEETINGS NOT NORMALLY REPORTED IN PRESS AND
PROBABLY REFLECT ATTEMPT DEMONSTRATE PMAC UNITY.
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